

Environmental Justice Planning Advisory Workgroup Meeting Minutes January 29, 2007

Members Present: Tracey Brieger, Veda Federighi, Karen Heisler, Laurie Nelson, Renee Pinel, Brenda Washington Davis, Gary Kunkel, Jena Ambacher, Erin Field, Carl Winter and, Terry Stark (via phone) and Teresa DeAnda (via phone)

Members Absent: Jim Wells, Carolina Simunovic, Martha Arguello, Shankar Prasad, Mily Trevino-Sauceda, Claudia Soria, Marilyn Dolan

Facilitators: Joseph McIntyre, Sara Tickler, Kara Vernor

Next Meeting: *March 12, 10:00-2:00*

Location: *First floor training rooms, Cal/EPA building
Sacramento, CA*

Meeting Objective:

Create and prioritize objectives for Goal 4 (Coordination and Collaboration).

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome and introductions, approve minutes of January 16 meeting
- Goal 4 information sharing:
 - What are the issues in the field, workgroup members
 - What is being done today at DPR
- First reading of proposals from members
- Development of consensus recommendations for Goal 4
- Review of recommendations to date
- Recap of day, next agenda, review of member preparation
- Closing and Thanks

Meeting Ground Rules:

- Listen
- Respect
- Hold Judgment
- Share Fully
- Courtesy:
 - Silent cells/pagers
 - Be concise
 - Be on time
 - Be prepared

I. Goal 4: Ensure DPR is accountable for effective collaboration, coordination and communication within DPR, with CACs, and with other government agencies in addressing Environmental Justice.

- The group agreed to add “With CACs” to the goal.

Where are the gaps/opportunities for improvement here?

- A. For the consumer product industry the opportunity is coordination with other groups to provide information and education regarding proper use of consumer, industrial and institutional products.
- B. Coordinated responses to acute incidents of exposure. Who should be contacted? Who should respond?
- C. Coordination and communication with air boards regarding pesticides that affect air quality (including VOCs, which contribute to formation of smog), and water boards, including more than the regional water boards, and dealing with wastewater treatment plants, storm water districts, and other EPA agencies, etc.
- D. One of the challenges is defining who does what within other government agencies.
- E. Better coordination with school districts and public health around hazardous products.
- F. DPR should coordinate with government agencies to identify and resolve the inconsistencies among regulatory requirements within their authority and to advocate for resolution of inconsistencies in requirements that are not within their authority.
- G. Clarify the process for reimbursement of medical costs (SB391). Clarify who the lead agency is.
- H. OEHHA – greater coordination regarding level of concerns/regulatory thresholds. How to resolve different recommendations?
- I. Better DHS coordination.
- J. Better integrated pest management in public housing and better coordination with public housing agencies (HUD, etc.) regarding the use and misuse of pesticides within public housing.
- K. More effective communication within DPR rank and file regarding EJ. Ask staff periodically what they need in order to coordinate better with others in the EJ realm.

Proposed recommendations for addressing the abovementioned gaps follow. (The number at the end of each statement represents how highly the group prioritized each recommendation. Recommendations 7, 5, and 1, were selected as the top priorities. Work on refining the language in each recommendation to follow at a later date.):

- 1. Create a public information tool that describes the various agencies, their responsibilities regarding pesticide use, and their contact information, and make available in various languages. (5)
- 2. DPR conduct an education program for employees with regards to their responsibilities and other agency responsibilities. (0)
- 3. DPR to review and update MOUs regularly and make them available to interested parties. (1)

4. Facilitate an annual input process from a wide range of stakeholders to identify regulatory gaps and inconsistencies, prioritize them for action in a public process and recommend DPR either resolve or advocate for resolution. (4)
5. DPR convene a cross-agency workgroup consisting of DPR, public health agencies (including DHS), UC, and Federal and State housing agencies to coordinate agency actions, specifically information and education that identifies and encourages the use of IPM to effectively protect public health. (5)
6. DPR and CACs to be involved in area plans to specify responsibilities in the case of an incident. (3)
7. DPR to create a system for communicating with school superintendents (State and County) to encourage that all school district officials, employees and contractors know what to do in the event of a pesticide incident and to work with the school districts to evaluate the exposure risk. (6)
8. DPR to coordinate with OEHHA to ensure that medical staff recognize, report, and respond to pesticide related illnesses appropriately. (3, also received a block because it may fit better under a different goal)

Assignments

- Everyone should review the notes from our previous meeting. Please get any corrections, additions or edits to Veda by Wednesday January 31, 2007. Barring any, she will post the notes as final that day. Veda will forward her changes, if any, to the group.
- Joseph, Sara and Kara will work with Jena and Laurie to refine the language in the objectives that were drafted today.

Parking Lot

- Discuss DPR regional structure
- Fully educate the health community regarding the effects of pesticide exposure.
- Goal 1: How to resolve different recommendations (public comment on risk assessment and risk management decisions).

IV. Next Meeting Date

March 12 – First floor training room, 10-2, Cal/EPA building